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2 June 1948

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Subject: TEN-MAN GROUPS

1. A Novel feature of Communist party organization has recently come to notice. It is called to your attention for possible connection with developments in your area.

2. [REDACTED] certain Communist 25X1X6 parties (Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Belgium) have organized so-called "Ten-Man Groups" immediately above the cell level and under the separate jurisdiction of a special party functionary (secretary). They accordingly represent a "squad system" within the party which does not follow any previously known organizational pattern. Although its total purpose in action terms cannot be determined at present, the new system clearly offers greater functional efficiency in normal party work and provides a potential mechanism for militant action.

a. The secretary general of CP Czechoslovakia in his report to the Nine Party Conference in Poland (Sept. 1947), published by the Cominform press organ on 1 December 1947 stated:

"An important factor in our Party organization is the so-called Ten Man Group system. The secretary of the Ten helps the committee of the basic organization. He is in fact the link between the committee and the members whom he helps to take part in the fulfillment of the Party's tasks. The secretary works with eight to ten members and carries out the following duties:

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he informs his members of the most important political campaigns, invites them to meetings and collects dues and subscriptions for party papers. The system of ten-man groups has fully justified itself and has helped to build up an Active of party functionaries numbering 100,000 to 120,000 members."

b. According to a statement in the Cominform press organ of 15 February 1947:

"Ten-man groups, each headed by a party officer, are being set up in local party organizations in Hungary. These officers are obliged to establish close contact with the members of the group, to involve the rank and file members into active party work, and to collect party dues."

A Hungarian Communist press report of February 1948, describing the activities of the leader of a Group of Ten (party "confidant") in connection with the exchange of membership cards, remarks:

"The Groups of Ten are not under organization only for implementing the exchange of membership cards but they will remain also after the exchange has taken place. The meaning of "Groups of Ten" is that not a single party member will be left to himself in the future, but he will be regularly visited, cared for, helped, educated and included in party work. The reason why we did not want more than ten members being attached to a party confidant is that he could scarcely cope with more."

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c.

[REDACTED] the organizational conference of CP Belgium (21 - 22 February 1948) introduced the ten-man system into the Belgian party. Within each basic organization (cell) a militant member will be placed in charge of ten members and will be promoted to the rank of secretary. These local secretaries will be charged with the following duties:

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- (1) to collect dues from the ten members of the groups;
- (2) to assure participation of the group in party meetings;
- (3) to assure active participation of the ten in all party campaigns;
- (4) to explain to the members the aims and the necessity of campaigns launched by the party;
- (5) to distribute and interpret the party press.

CP Belgium plans to have a corps of 5,000 such secretaries by the end of 1948. It is further suggested by source that these ten-man groups may serve as action teams in the event of strikes, sabotage, etc., or that they may serve as the basis for an underground organization.

3.

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